

Remarks

This Submission replies to the substance of the Office Action dated December 21, 2005. Claims 1, 17 and 35 have been amended. Claims 1-9, 17-33 and 35 remain pending in this case.

I. Rejection of the Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 6-12 17 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Giles et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,104,999 (*Giles*). Claims 1, 17 and 35 have been amended, and Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment overcomes this rejection and adds no new matter.

Claim 1 recites in a system for processing and managing requests for collocation space, the system comprising a workstation, a computer network, a web server, an application server, and a database, a method for assisting a user in completing an application for collocation space, comprising, *inter alia*, “obtaining user information regarding a location and physical characteristics of the collocation space and equipment to be installed therein, the collocation space comprising a physical space allocated for equipment belonging to a plurality of communications entities, wherein the user information about the location and physical characteristics comprises at least one of the following: physical space square footage information, physical space type and existing physical space information.” Claim 1 also recites “allowing a proposed layout of the equipment for the collocation space or other documents to be associated with and attached to the application, wherein said proposed layout is based on space requirements associated with the equipment.”

Claim 17 recites in a system comprising a workstation, a computer network, a web server, an application server, and a database, a method for processing and responding to requests for collocation space, comprising, *inter alia*, “obtaining from a user information regarding a

location and physical characteristics of a collocation space and equipment to be installed therein, the collocation space comprising a physical space allocated for equipment belonging to a plurality of communications entities, wherein the user information about the location and physical characteristics comprises at least one of the following: physical space square footage information, physical space type and existing physical space information.”

Claim 35 recites in a system comprising a workstation, a computer network, a web server, an application server, and a database, a method for processing and responding to requests for collocation space comprising, *inter alia*, “obtaining from a user information regarding a location and physical characteristics of a collocation space and equipment to be installed therein, the collocation space comprising a physical space allocated for equipment belonging to a plurality of communications entities, wherein the user information about the location and physical characteristics comprises at least one of the following: physical space square footage information, physical space type and existing physical space information.”

Giles discloses a transaction flow diagram illustrating a pre-ordering exchange between a telecommunications provider and a telecommunications reseller. (*See Giles* column 7, lines 44-47.) Once a relationship has been established between reseller 50 and wholesaler 22, reseller 50 receives regular transmissions of a feature availability file 200 and address validation file 202 for subsequent use in processing customer orders. (*See Giles* column 7, lines 47-51.) When reseller 50 receives an order or inquiry from a customer, reseller 50 initiates an electronic request for customer service record information and transmits a request to wholesaler 22 using either a purchaser order transaction set (850) as indicated by reference numeral 204. (*See Giles* column 7, lines 51-56.) If the customer service record request has appropriate authorization, the corresponding customer service record is forwarded to the reseller using a customer service

record response transaction set (864) as indicated by reference numeral 206. (*See Giles* column 7, lines 56-60 and column 7 line 61 through column 8 line 46.)

In contrast, *Giles* fails to disclose, “obtaining user information regarding a location and physical characteristics of the collocation space and equipment to be installed therein, the collocation space comprising a physical space allocated for equipment belonging to a plurality of communications entities, wherein the user information about the location and physical characteristics comprises at least one of the following: physical space square footage information, physical space type and existing physical space information.” While *Giles* may mention a physical location, this reference refers to a building address because a reseller is purchasing a requested feature for the address, for example, entity identifier code 33. (*See Giles* column 7, lines 61-65 and column 61 and 62.) In addition, *Giles* discloses the request of features for a location and does not disclose obtaining from a user information regarding a location and physical characteristics of the collocation space and equipment to be installed therein because the physical characteristics of a collocation space is not used by *Giles*. *Giles* merely uses an address for verification, delivery and billing purposes. (*See Giles* column 7, lines 61-65 and column 61 and 62.) Also, *Giles* fails to disclose, “allowing a proposed layout of the equipment for the collocation space or other documents to be associated with and attached to the application, wherein said proposed layout is based on space requirements associated with the equipment.” Applicants submit that the transaction set 850 cited in the Office Action does not equate to a proposed layout of the equipment for the collocation space because the transaction set 850 is merely a format for obtaining purchase orders and is no way associated with allowing a proposed layout of equipment.

Accordingly, independent Claim 1 patentably distinguishes the present invention over the cited prior art, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection of Claim 1. Dependent Claims 2-9 are also allowable at least for the reasons described above regarding Independent Claim 1, and by virtue of their dependency upon independent Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection of dependent Claims 2-9.

As mentioned above, *Giles* fails to disclose “obtaining from a user information regarding a location and physical characteristics of a collocation space and equipment to be installed therein, the collocation space comprising a physical space allocated for equipment belonging to a plurality of communications entities, wherein the user information about the location and physical characteristics comprises at least one of the following: physical space square footage information, physical space type and existing physical space information.” Therefore, independent Claim 17 patentably distinguishes the present invention over the cited prior art, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection of Claim 17 for the reasons mentioned above with respect to Claim 1. Dependent Claims 18-33 are also allowable at least for the reasons described above regarding Independent Claim 17, and by virtue of their dependency upon independent Claim 17. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection of dependent Claims 18-33.

As mentioned above, *Giles* fails to disclose “obtaining from a user information regarding a location and physical characteristics of a collocation space and equipment to be installed therein, the collocation space comprising a physical space allocated for equipment belonging to a plurality of communications entities, wherein the user information about the location and physical characteristics comprises at least one of the following: physical space square footage

information, physical space type and existing physical space information.” Therefore, independent Claim 35 patentably distinguishes the present invention over the cited prior art, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection of Claim 35 for the reasons mentioned above with respect to Claim 1.

Conclusion

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned please contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at 404.954.5040.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,
MERCHANT & GOULD

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